

Dear Friends in the Lord,

First of all we want to express our gratitude to the Lord for all His goodness and faithfulness towards us as it's 50 years ago today that we arrived in France - 1st of July 1973. On it's 100th anniversary one assembly wrote : "Looking back **with thanks**, looking out **in compassion**, looking forward **in faith**, looking up **in hope**." We want to adopt these words too for our own lives.

Last Saturday, 24th, we had an interesting day in the life of the church. First of all we had our get together at the church for a training and discussion time for the 4th effort of street evangelism here in Aix-en-Provence. People come together in the morning and then after a picnic lunch go out into the streets or parcs for a time of sharing the Gospel with those who are there. These efforts have gone fairly well in general and people have been very nice and receptive in general to what has been shared. In the afternoon we had an open day in the grounds of the church organised by the "Oasis" group, (an outreach towards believers and non-believers from a Muslim background), when people living close to the church were invited to come along and meet us. Some games were set up for the children and we had snacks to round things off. Some of the church members did well in inviting their neighbours along while others brought along some of their friends and contacts they already had. All in all it was a very nice time and there was a nice friendly atmosphere with a good, manageable number present. This was the first time anything like this was organised and we hope to renew the experience in the future.

At the moment we are in the middle of clearing out the premises at the Voice of the Gospel ministries as, so far, the sale of the property is going ahead for the 1st of September. As you can well imagine this a mammoth task as lots of things have been kept and have built up over the years. The first two buildings, the main office block and the house, are being sold first which leaves the recording studio part still belonging to us. For the time being this is very good as we will be able to use this and move things over there. This will save us a big upheaval in having to look for other premises at the moment and having to move everything elsewhere.

Main activities are now winding down for the summer period as the school holidays are almost upon us. The second Alpha group which was started a few weeks ago will perhaps continue throughout the summer but this group of three invited people has already met with difficulty in trying to find suitable dates for the folks to meet together.

You will have no doubt seen in the news what France is going through at the moment. Outbreaks of violence and destruction are spreading further and further over all the country and the situation is getting quite critical and very worrying. We do pray for wisdom for the government and that there might be a spirit of calm and tranquility that will return very soon.

We join again in thanking you for your interest, practical fellowship and prayers and join too in sending our very warm greetings in the Lord,

Graham et Alison.

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